Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 13358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ETRD, RP, EINV

SUBJECT: GOP DEMARCHE ON ECONOMIC AND BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MANILA 13107

1. SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY PATERNO TOLD ACTING E/C COUNSELOR AUGUST 25 THAT GOP DECISION TO SEEK RESUMPTION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY BASES NEGOTIATIONS WAS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. ASKED WHAT MOTIVATED MARCOS, PATERNO SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WATED TO CONCLUDE THESE TREATIES WITH THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE CONVENING OF A NEW PARLIAMENT. PATERNO THEN MENTIONED THAT THE JAPANESE TREATY TOOK 13 YEARS AND THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW BEFORE IT WAS RATIFIED. HE SAID THAT PARLIAMENT WAS THE LOGICAL OUTCOME PRESIDENT'S PROMISE OF LOCAL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR IN HIS SPEECH TO THE WORLD LAW CONFERENCE (MANILA 13106).

2. PATERNO WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVED USG POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHEAST ASIA, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, WAS BEGINNING TO CRYSTALLIZE. PRESIDENT THEREFORE CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUGHT NOW WAS PROPITIOUS TIME TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AND IT WOULD BE EASIER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN ECONOMIC TREATY THAN ON A MILITARY AGREEMENT.

3. AT THIS POINT PATERNO REFERRED TO THE GOP POSITION ON INVESTMENT. WE THEN REVIEWED OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON INVESTMENTS AND GSP. PATERNO SAID THAT VIRATA WOULD LEAD

THE BILATERALS WITH HEGINBOTHAM AS WELL AS THE ASEAN CONSULTATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO STAND BY OUR REFTEL ANALYSIS AND ARE NOT PERSUADED THAT MARCOS IS ACTING FROM ANY SENSE OF IMPENDING REAL PARLIAMENTARY CONSTRAINTS.

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